



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WILLITON
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1965.

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WILLITON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR
1965.

To the Chairman & Members of the Council

Mr.Chairman,Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report upon the health and sanitation of your district for the year 1965.

Very few cases of infectious disease have been reported and the general health of the population continues to be very good. The following sections deal with the work of the department during the year, together with vital statistics and general public health services.

<u>Section A.</u>	Vital Statistics and Social Conditions
<u>Section B.</u>	Water Supplies,Sewage and Refuse Disposal
<u>Section C.</u>	Housing
<u>Section D.</u>	Food Inspection and Supplies
<u>Section E.</u>	Public Health Nuisances,Complaints,Etc.
<u>Section F.</u>	Caravans & Camping
<u>Section G.</u>	Other Acts administered by the Department
<u>Section H.</u>	Summary of Inspections and Visits by Health Department Officers.

Section A.
Vital Statistics & Social Conditions.

The steady improvement in general living conditions has been maintained. This applies particularly with regard to housing, having in mind the considerable progress made in re-housing of families from sub-standard accommodation and the improvement effected in existing dwellings by the aid of grants. Considerable further progress in drainage and sewerage throughout the district has accelerated this process.

In one respect,however,the district in common with many other South Western districts,falls very far short of present-day requirements. I refer to the inadequacy of existing roads. Very heavy increases in motor traffic,both commercial and private, and the increasing attraction of the West Country as a holiday and tourist centre has highlighted this inadequacy. Development of a residential character continues,but at a reduced rate,due mainly to scarcity and consequent high cost of building sites.

Area	...	...	97,364 acres
Population (estimated mid-year home population)	...	...	13,530
Number of Dwelling Houses	...	...	4,858
Rateable Value	...	...	£368,216
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	£1,500

<u>Live Births.</u>	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	79	84	163
Illegitimate ...	4	9	13
	83	93	176

Birth Rate per thousand population ... 13.08

<u>Still Births.</u>	
Legitimate ...	Nil
Illegitimate...	Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	M.	F.	Total
From all causes	99	83	182

Death Rate per thousand population ... 13.45

Health Services.

The district is served by Hospitals at Minehead and Musgrove Park, Taunton, and Hospitals for the Aged Sick at Williton, Bridgwater and Taunton. Ambulance services are available from Minehead and Musgrove Park. Part three accommodation for 40 persons at Croft House, Williton, is now fully occupied.

Notifiable Diseases.

Notified.

Smallpox	.....	Nil
Scarlet Fever	.....	"
Diphtheria	.....	"
Enteric Fever	.....	"
Measles	.....	43
Whooping Cough	.....	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.....	"
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	.....	"
Dysentery	.....	"
Malaria	.....	"
Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	"
Encephalitis Lethargica	.....	"
Erysipelas	.....	"
Q. Fever	.....	"
Food Poisoning	.....	"
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	.....	"
" (Non-respiratory)	....	"

Section B.

Water Supplies.

There were no water supply shortages during the year but the quality of some untreated supplies was poor.

Results of samples from piped supplies are as follows :-

Raw Water.

<u>Bacteriological.</u>	Satisfactory - 92	Unsatisfactory - 68
<u>Chemical.</u>	" 16	" Nil

Treated Water.

<u>Bacteriological.</u>	" 256	" 30
<u>Chemical.</u>	" 73	" 3

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal is on four semi-controlled tips and all parishes are receiving regular collections. Williton, Porlock and Dunster are collected weekly, with fortnightly collections in other parishes with the exception of Oare, which receives fortnightly collections from May to October and monthly for the remainder of the year.

New disposal sites have been negotiated to replace the Stringston and Bossington tips. One of these, at Luccombe, is already receiving refuse, whilst the other, at Rydon Farm, Williton, is being prepared for this purpose. Collection by direct labour commenced on the 1st April, 1965. Two vehicles were purchased from Messrs Shelvoke & Drewry, one large 'TZ' type tipper and one smaller 'TN' type, and four loader-drivers engaged. A spare man has also been engaged as stand-in for emergencies, and he assists in tip-maintenance, etc, when not engaged on collection.

Disposal work and compacting on the tips has been materially assisted by the purchase of a model '65R' Massey-Ferguson tractor, with accessories.

The service is working efficiently and smoothly.

Sewage Disposal.

Thirteen parishes now have main drainage and efficient disposal systems. The scheme covering the parishes of Bicknoller, Sampford Brett, Stogumber and West Quantoxhead, is nearing completion.



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Section C.Housing.

There are now 4,858 permanent dwellings in the district, of which number 345 are owned by the Local Authority with a further 78 Council houses and 57 private enterprise houses in course of erection.

The number of applicants for Council houses amounts to 287, of which number 48 can be classed as non-urgent.

There were 36 grant-aided schemes under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, completed during the year. Discretionary grants approved were 40 at an average cost of £270, and Standard grants 5, at an average cost of £127. Of this total of 45 grants awarded, 34 were in respect of owner-occupied dwellings.

No cases of overcrowding have been reported. Two Demolition Orders were served in respect of vacant cottages.

The position with regard to housing sites remains difficult with resulting high prices.

The Rent Act, 1957.

There have been no applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Section D.Food Inspection & Supplies.Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected	1728	20	76	9342	3907
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	1		1	2	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	182	10	9	242	281
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. and Cysticerci.	10.5	50	13.1	2.6	7.2
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	-	-	-	-	1.02
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Submitted to refrigeration	16	-	-	-	-
Totally condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-
Weight of meat condemned (lbs):					
(a) Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	566
(b) Cysticercosis	46	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Other	1965	105	50	1412	2167
	2011	105	50	1412	2733

Slaughtering & Slaughterhouses.

Five licenced slaughterhouses are operating and 100% meat inspection has been maintained throughout the year.

Food Premises, Etc.

Standards of food hygiene generally have been maintained at a high level, but informal action for minor infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, was necessary in 15 cases.

Section E.

Complaints of various kinds received during the year numbered 98. There were none of an unusual nature and all were effectively dealt with by the staff of the department.

Section F.

Caravans & Camping.

There are 19 sites in your district licenced under the Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act, 1960, and two under the Public Health Act, Section 269.

The seasonal camper and caravanner, for whom little or no provision is made, occupying as they frequently do, lay-byes and road verges are an increasing anxiety. The problem of lack of sanitary facilities especially, apart from that of litter, exemplifies the pressing need for the provision of additional accommodation of an approved standard for this type of holiday-maker.

Section G.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 52 factories, including five licenced slaughterhouses in the district. The majority of the others are of the light engineering type where machinery of some kind is in use, whilst some are of a temporary nature, such as building sites, etc. Outworkers resident in the district number 42, of which seven are employed by firms operating outside the district.

The Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

There were 31 inspections and reinspections made under the above Act. It was not found possible to devote very much time to this work owing to the numerous other commitments of the department's staff.

Pet Animals Act.

Rag Flock Act.

There are no pet shops within the district or premises dealing in rag flock.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council's Operative has been fully employed during the year and in the course of his duties has actually recovered 1,407 dead rats. He also dealt successfully with 80 wasps nests and one hornet's nest.

The arrangement with the Watchet U.D.C continues. Treatments and inspections are as follows :-

<u>Property.</u>	<u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Treated.</u>
Domestic	469	249
Agricultural	194	21
Business	51	14
Local Authority	15	12

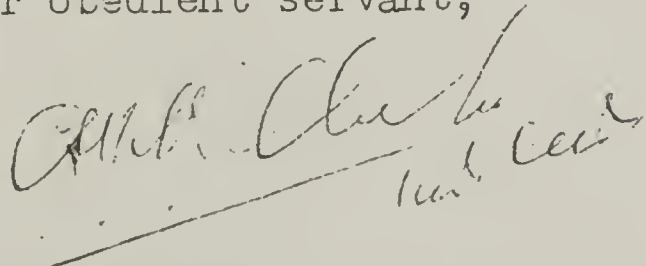
There are six Contracts in operation, five agricultural and one business.

<u>Section H.</u>		
<u>Housing Acts, 1936-1954.</u>		
<u>Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.</u>		
Housing Inspections	...	434
Informal Notices served	...	18
Statutory Notices served	...	6
<u>Public Health Acts.</u>		
<u>Inspections.</u>		
Drainage & Sewerage	...	223
Water Supplies	...	105
Refuse Disposal	...	283
Caravans & Camping	...	143
Nuisances	...	92
Filthy or Verminous Premises	...	31
Persons in need of Care & Attention	...	2
Public Conveniences	...	11
Infectious Diseases	...	15
Miscellaneous	...	56
Informal Notices served	...	14
Statutory Notices served	...	1
<u>Food & Drugs Acts.</u>		
<u>Food Hygiene Regulations.</u>		
Slaughterhouses	...	32
Food & Catering Premises	...	37
Unsound Food	...	4
Knackers Yards	...	1
Informal Notices served	...	12
<u>Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.</u>		
<u>Inspections</u>		
Informal Notices served	...	31
	...	1
<u>Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.</u>		
<u>Inspections</u>		
	...	3
<u>Diseases of Animals Acts.</u>		
<u>Anthrax Order of 1938.</u>		
<u>Inspections</u>		
	...	8
<u>Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957.</u>		
<u>Inspections</u>		
	...	7
<u>Caravans Sites & Control of</u>		
<u>Development Act, 1960.</u>		
<u>Inspections.</u>		
	...	68
Informal Notices served	...	4
<u>Litter Act, 1958.</u>		
<u>Inspections.</u>		
	...	4
Informal Notices served	...	2
Complaints Received	...	98
" Investigated	...	98

I would like once again to thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued good work.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health

